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Clean Grain Notes

for Cooperators in Clean Grain Program



FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NO. 3

Clean Grain Progress Heartening: The Food and Drug Administration, which put its new standard of grain sanitation into effect July 1, reports heartening progress in the Clean Grain effort. No seizures have been made under the new tolerance, and total seizures since January 5, 1955, amount to only 21 cars. Of this number, 14 were seized during the first 10 months of the accelerated inspection program.

The new standard makes wheat in interstate transit subject to seizure if it contains one or more rodent pellets per pint, or 1 percent or more by weight insect-damaged kernels.

Clean Grain Week Focuses Attention on Insect and Rodent Control: An official proclamation by the Governor, insect and rodent control demonstrations, plus thorough press, radio and television coverage spotlighted North Dakota's second annual Clean Grain Week, July 9 to 13. With a special Clean Grain Banquet serving as the official kickoff for the Week, statewide attention was focused on Sargent County where eight towns were treated for complete rodent control. Five tons of prepared bait were used in this effort which served as both a demonstration and a stimulus to similar action in other counties. As a result, some 16 other counties are planning complete rodent control campaigns.

Wayne Colberg, secretary of the North Dakota Clean Grain Committee, reports Clean Grain Week was a cooperative affair involving active participation by many agricultural agencies, farm organizations, the grain trade, and farm supply dealers. The Rodent Control Branch of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and extension workers are taking the lead in carrying out future countywide demonstrations.

Short Course Highlights Clean Grain Work: Mounting interest in clean grain in the Northwest was further heightened by the second annual Grain Sanitation Short Course held at Washington State College this year, reports the Pacific Northwest Crop Improvement Association. Designed for warehousemen and cosponsored by the Crop Improvement Association and the Grain Dealers Association in cooperation with Washington State College and the University of Idaho, the short course was attended by some 80 persons from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The program included instruction on control of stored grain insects, demonstrations of a recirculating fumigation system, and laboratory sessions on how to test for smut and identification of stored grain insects.

Enthusiasm for the short course indicates consideration should be given to holding similar programs in other areas, reports the Crop Improvement Association.

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Michigan's Intensive Clean Grain Effort Paying Off: Michigan's 12-point attack on the grain sanitation problem is paying off, reports Assistant Extension Director Richard Bell in a recent letter. The 12-point program includes two series of training meetings with elevator operators, publishing of 50,000 copies of "Prevent Damage to Stored Wheat," distribution of 3,000 Clean Grain posters, inauguration of a weekly newsletter for elevator operators, Clean Grain slides and script to television stations, Clean Grain mats and news stories to daily and weekly newspapers, and a special Clean Grain radio series.

Layton Nelson, chairman of the Michigan Extension Committee on Clean Grain, says this concerted effort, coordinated with those of the grain trade and industry, is having a real impact upon the problems of grain sanitation in Michigan.

Worth Watching: Experimental work being conducted by the Department's Agricultural Marketing Service may provide a more accurate means of predicting deterioration of stored grain. The study is being made at the request of the Commodity Stabilization Service to determine if deterioration can be predicted on the basis of temperature, moisture, and fat acidity levels. If the study reveals deterioration is hastened when these factors are in a certain relationship, researchers may be able to establish tables which can be used as a basis for predicting rate of deterioration. Current tests are being made on stored corn at Waiseka, Ill., as a part of the overall AMS marketing research program for maintaining quality of grain under bin-site conditions.

Timely Tips: With harvest in full-swing in many areas, right around the corner in others, and past in a large section of the Wheat Belt -- good storage practices are the order of the day. Essential to safe storage are weather, bird and rodent-proof bins; grain drying where necessary; regular inspection for insects and moisture; and fumigation. In spring wheat, corn and soybean areas, attention should also be focused on such preharvest practices as cleaning, spraying, and repairing of bins; baiting rat stations and cleaning up premises; cleaning combines, harvesting grain at proper moisture content, and use of grain protectants.

Tape Recordings Cover Clean Grains: Various aspects of Clean Grain are covered in a series of three tape recordings prepared and distributed by the Fairfield Chemical Company to some 75 radio stations in the midwest. Timed to reach stations to which they were sent just prior to harvest, the three recordings cover the national Clean Grain effort; how a typical State (North Dakota) Clean Grain program works; and the steps to insect prevention and control. Carl Watts, technical development representative for Fairfield Chemical, reports response from stations has been excellent.

Both the Fairfield Chemical Company and members of the FES Clean Grain Committee wish to thank Wayne Colberg of North Dakota and Professor Donald Wilbur of Kansas State College for helping make this series of recordings possible.

Team Approach Credited for Progress: Sincere interest in maintaining grain quality, and a team approach to the problem by all concerned were credited for progress made to date by members of the FES Clean Grain Committee at their last meeting. In addition to FES personnel, Walter Dykstra of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Kenton Harris of the Food and Drug Administration, and Philip Talbot of Commodity Stabilization attended.

Federal Extension Service Clean Grain Committee: Otto C. Crook, chairman; P. F. Aylesworth, J. B. Claar, Robert O. Gilden, Tom Hall, Eunice Heywood, M. P. Jones, J. R. Paulling, Bryan Phifer, C. A. Sheffield.